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CONCERNING RAFINESQUE'S PRÉCIS DES DÉCOUVERTES SOMIOLOGIQUES.

BY DAVID STARR JORDAN.

In Palermo, in 1814, Constantine Samuel Rafinesque published a mean little pamphlet which he called "Précis des Découvertes Somiologiques, ou Zoologiques et Botaniques." By his newly invented word "Somiology" Rafinesque meant Systematic Zoölogy and Botany. In another paper of the same date he gives the "Principaux Fondamentaux de Somiologie, ou les Lois de la Nomenclature et de la Classification de l'Empire Organique ou des Animaux et des Végétaux."

These laws of nomenclature are mostly reasonable enough, except that they justify the substitution of new names on trivial grounds. A name may be too long or too short, and all names indicating likeness to other genera, as *Gobioïdes*, *Scomberomorus*, *Scomberesox*, were discarded. These rules he applies at once to numerous plant genera and in his "Analyse de la Nature," in 1815, to many others also.

The "Précis de Découvertes" has been rarely seen by naturalists. The only copy I have examined is in the library of the Department of Agriculture. In it the following species are described, from Sicily, unless otherwise noted:

Phycis macronemus, p. 16.

This is apparently *Phycis blennioides* Brünnich.

Trisopterus fasciatus (new genus), p. 16.

"Corps comprimé: tête écailleuse: trois nageoires dorsales et anales opposées, les intermédiaires les plus grandes. Il appartient à la famille des Gadiens. *T. fasciatus*: Jaune doré rayé transversalement de brun: ligne laterale droite et brune: queue fourchée."

According to Risso this is the same as his *Morua capelanus* or *Brachygadus minutus* (L). This identification is probably correct, in which case *Trisopterus* replaces *Brachygadus* Gill.

Bothus diagrammus, p. 16.

Left side rosy, unspotted. Two lateral lines, the upper straight, the lower curved. Dorsal beginning over opercles.

Bothus punctatus, p. 17.

Upper side reddish, dotted with brown; lateral line arched in front; dorsal beginning over mouth.

Bothus diaphanus, p. 17.

Hyaline, a red spot on opercle; two at base of caudal; 12 along body near dorsal and anal; dorsal beginning over mouth; lateral line straight.

These three species are plainly larval flounders, the first possibly *Flesus flesus* (L) the others perhaps *Bothus rhombus* (L).

Monochirus hispidus, p. 17. New genus.

This is a valid genus and species for which Rafinesque's name must stand.

Blennius lanceolatus, p. 17.

Body lanceolate; tail sharp; silvery, dotted with brown; back greenish; ventral rays 3; a barbel under the mouth. (Not identified, possibly *Ophidion barbatum* L.)

Phycis agrammus, p. 17.

Brown, with two rows of whitish spots; no lateral lines, no barbels; two appendages on nostrils; ventral rays 5; front dorsal rays 20. (Not identified.)

Lutianus flavus, p. 18.

Entièrement jaune foncé, une tache noire sur l'opercule postérieur et une autre à la base de la queue qui est entière; ligne latérale courbe postérieurement. This is *Crenilabrus ocellatus* (Forskål), originally from Smyrna.

Holocentrus ruber, p. 18.

Rouge pâle, une tache violette sur l'opercule postérieur, un rang de taches olivâtres sur le dos; iris violette; queue entière, ligne latérale courbe postérieurement. Unidentifiable. Possibly *Paracentropristis hepatus* (L.), the name *ruber* preoccupied in *Holocentrus*.

Perca nebulosa, p. 18.

Variée de brun plus ou moins clair ou rougeâtre, machoire inférieure plus courte, à un barbillon très-court en dessous; nuque carénée, ligne latérale presque droite, queue entière, première nag. dorsale à 10 rayons. This is *Umbrina cirrhosa* (L.).

Gobius aterrimus, p. 18.

Entièrement d'un noir foncé uniforme sur tout le corps et les membres; joues enflées, ligne latérale droite, queue arrondée, première nag. dorsale à 5 rayons. This is probably *Gobius niger* L.

Esox reticulatus, p. 18.

Corps comprimé, sans ligne latérale, réticulé de noir bleuâtre sur un fond argenté, bouche grande noire, à dents crochues inégales; nageoires blanchâtres, les dorsale et anale à 16 rayons, queue fourchue.

This seems to be the common European pike, *Esox lucius* L. The name invalidates the later name of *Esox reticulatus*, given in 1818 by Le Sueur to the Grass Pike or Green Pickerel of Eastern States of America. For this, the name *Esox tredecemlineatus* given by Professor Mitchill in 1852, to his "Federation Pike" from Oneida Lake, should apparently stand. Mitchill was impressed with the patriotic agreement of this fish, having 13 dorsal rays, 13 anal rays and 13 branchiostegals, with the thirteen American States.

Esox phaleratus Say, 1818, from East Florida, was never described. The few words quoted from Say by Le Sueur, apply better to the little banded pickerel, *Esox americanus* Gmelin. "Body dusky with a vertical fulvous vitta and three or four fulvous fasciæ."

Balistes fuscatus, p. 19.

Brownish, with 3 large black spots. Dorsal spines 3, the first very rough. Pectorals with 15 rays, the first very rough. Between the Azores and the United States. This seems to be *Balistes forcipatus* Gmelin.

Chironectes variegatus, p. 19.

Compressed; gray olive above with large spots and streaks of black and small white spots; two appendages above eyes. Between the Azores and the United States. This is apparently *Histrio tumidus* (Osbeck). *Chironectes variegatus* of Cuv. & Val. is a different species.

The three following are from streams flowing into Chesapeake Bay:

Centropomus albus, p. 19. D. VIII, 16. A. 12.

Tail half forked; upper jaw the longer. This seems to be *Morone americana* Gmelin, but the number of dorsal rays should be IX-1, 12.

Centropomus luteus, p. 19.

Yellow with brown bands; lower fins red; jaws almost equal; tail almost entire; second dorsal unspotted. This is *Perca flavescens* (Mitchill) of the same date, 1814.

Sparus mocasinus, p. 19.

Bluish, rosy on the flanks; 2 spots on opercle, one black, one red; tail lunulate. D. X. 14. A. III, 14. This is *Eupomotis gibbosus* (L), but the number of fin-rays agrees with those of no sun-fish.